CLAIMS

1   1.   A method for verifying biometric and / or other information obtained from

2   persons and / or from documents to verify the identity of the persons and / or the validity

3   of the documents, while protecting the privacy of the persons, where there are databases

4   with information about the persons and the documents, said method comprising the steps

5   of:

6   identifying the database(s) that contain information necessary for verifying the

7   obtained information;

8   comparing the information from the identified database(s) with the obtained

9   information to verify the latter without disclosing database information to anyone; and

10   providing an indication whether or not the obtained information matches the

11   information from the identified database(s).

1   2.   The method in accordance with claim 1 wherein the obtained information is

2   obtained from a source and further comprising the step of forwarding the information

3   match indication to the source.

1   3.   The method in accordance with claim 2 further comprising the step of forwarding

2   the obtained information to a remote location where the information comparing step takes

3   place.

1   4.   The method in accordance with claim 2 wherein a person provides the obtained

2   information in order to obtain a document, and the obtained information is verified during

3   the information comparing step to verify the identity of the last mentioned person before

4   the last mentioned document is issued to that person.

1   5.   The method in accordance with claim 1 wherein a person provides the obtained

2   information in order to obtain a document, and the obtained information is verified during

3   the information comparing step to verify the identity of the last mentioned person before

4   the last mentioned document is issued to that person.

1   6.   The method in accordance with claim 1 wherein a person provides an issued

2   document and the obtained information to be verified is obtained from that person and

3   from the issued document they provide.

1   7.   The method in accordance with claim 2 wherein a person provides an issued

2   document and the obtained information to be verified is obtained from that person and

3   from the issued document they provide.

1   8.   Apparatus for verifying biometric and / or other information obtained from

2   persons and / or from documents, to verify the identity of the persons and / or the validity

3   of the documents, while protecting the privacy of the persons, where there are databases

4   with information about the persons and the documents, said apparatus comprising:

5   means for identifying the database(s) that contain information necessary for

6   verifying the obtained information;

7   means for comparing the information from the identified database(s) with the

8   obtained information to verify the latter without disclosing database information to

9   anyone; and

10   means for providing an indication whether or not the obtained information

11   matches the information from the identified database(s).

1   9.   The invention in accordance with claim 8 further comprising means for obtaining

2   the information from persons and documents and wherein the information match

3   indication provided by said indication providing means is forwarded to the database

4   identifying means that in turn forwards the information match indication to the

5   information obtaining means that provided the obtained information.

1   10.   The invention in accordance with claim 9 wherein the comparison means is
2   located remote from the database identifying means.

1   11.   The invention in accordance with claim 8 wherein a person provides the obtained
2   information in order to obtain a document, and the obtained information is verified by the
3   comparing means to verify the identity of the last mentioned person before the last
4   mentioned document is issued to them.

1   12.   The invention in accordance with claim 2 wherein a person provides an issued
2   document and the obtained information to be verified is obtained from that person and
3   from the issued document they provide.

1   13.   The invention in accordance with claim 11 further comprising means for
2   obtaining the information from persons and documents and wherein the information
3   match indication provided by said indication providing means is forwarded to the
4   database identifying means that in turn forwards the information match indication to the
5   information obtaining means that provided the obtained information.

1   14.   The invention in accordance with claim 12 further comprising means for
2   obtaining the information from persons and documents and wherein the information
3   match indication provided by said indication providing means is forwarded to the
4   database identifying means that in turn forwards the information match indication to the
5   information obtaining means that provided the obtained information.

1   15.   A method for verifying biometric and / or other information obtained from
2   persons and / or from documents to verify the identity of the persons and / or the validity
3   of the documents, while protecting the privacy of the persons, where there are databases
4   with information about the persons and the documents, said method comprising the steps
5   of:

6   obtaining information from persons and / or from documents from at least one

7   terminal;

8   identifying the database(s) that contain information necessary for verifying the

9   obtained information;

10   forwarding the obtained information to one or more servers that have access to the

11   information in the identified databases;

12   comparing the information from the identified database(s) with the obtained

13   information in the server to verify the obtained information without disclosing database

14   information to anyone;

15   providing an indication whether or not the obtained information matches the

16   information from the identified database(s); and

17   returning the match indications to the terminal from which the obtained

18   information that was compared to database information was originally sent.

1   16.   The method in accordance with claim 15 wherein a person at a terminal provides

2   the obtained information in order to obtain a new document, and the obtained information

3   is verified during the information comparing step to verify the identity of the last

4   mentioned person before the new document is issued to that person.

1   17.   The method in accordance with claim 16 wherein the databases are locations

2   remote from the terminals.

1   18.   The method in accordance with claim 15 wherein a person at a terminal provides

2   an issued document and the obtained information to be verified is obtained from that

3   person and from the issued document they provide.

1   19.   The method in accordance with claim 18 wherein the databases are locations

2   remote from the terminals.

20. Apparatus for verifying biometric and / or other information obtained from persons and / or from documents, to verify the identity of the persons and / or the validity of the documents, while protecting the privacy of the persons, where there are databases with information about the persons and the documents, said apparatus comprising:

at least one terminal at which information is obtained from persons and / or from documents;

an information verification server for identifying the database(s) that contain information necessary for verifying the information obtained at ones of the terminals;

at least one trust authority server associated with at least one of the databases, and the obtained information is forwarded via the information verification server to the trust authority server associated with the identified database(s), and the trust authority server compares the obtained information forwarded to it to verify the obtained information without disclosing database information to anyone; and

wherein the trust authority server provides an indication whether or not the obtained information matches the information from the identified database(s), and the information match indication is returned via the information verification server to the terminal from which the obtained information was originally sent for verification.

21. The invention in accordance with claim 20 wherein a person at a terminal provides the obtained information in order to obtain a new document, and the obtained information is verified by the trust authority server before the new document is issued to that person.

22. The invention in accordance with claim 20 wherein a person at a terminal provides an issued document and the obtained information to be verified is obtained from that person and from the issued document they provide.

23. A method for verifying biometric and / or other information obtained from persons and / or from documents to verify the identity of the persons and / or the validity

3   of the documents, while protecting the privacy of the persons, where there are databases

4   with information about the persons and the documents, said method comprising the steps

5   of:

6   identifying the database(s) that contain information necessary for verifying the

7   obtained information;

8   forwarding the obtained information to one or more servers that have access to the

9   information in the identified databases to verify the obtained information without

10 disclosing database information to anyone; and

11   receiving an indication from the one or more servers indicating whether or not the

12 obtained information matches the information in the database(s).

1   24.   A method for verifying biometric and / or other information obtained from

2   persons and / or from documents to verify the identity of the persons and / or the validity

3   of the documents, while protecting the privacy of the persons, where there are databases

4   with information about the persons and the documents, said method comprising the steps

5   of:

6   receiving a request at one or more servers that have access to information in ones

7   of the databases needed to verify the information obtained from the persons and / or from

8   the documents without disclosing database information to anyone;

9   comparing the obtained information with information in the last mentioned ones

10 of the databases at the one or more servers to verifying the obtained information; and

11   forwarding an indication from the one or more servers whether or not the obtained

12 information matches the information in the database(s).

1   25.   A computer readable medium containing computer executable instructions for

2   verifying biometric and / or other information obtained from persons and / or from

3   documents to verify the identity of the persons and / or the validity of the documents,

4   while protecting the privacy of the persons, where there are databases with information

5   about the persons and the documents, the executable program instructions comprising

6   program instructions for:

7   identifying the database(s) that contain information necessary for verifying the

8   obtained information;

9   comparing the information from the identified database(s) with the obtained

10   information to verify the latter without disclosing database information to anyone; and

11   providing an indication whether or not the obtained information matches the

12   information from the identified database(s).

1   26.   A computer readable medium containing computer executable instructions for

2   verifying biometric and / or other information obtained from persons and / or from

3   documents to verify the identity of the persons and / or the validity of the documents,

4   while protecting the privacy of the persons, where there are databases with information

5   about the persons and the documents, the executable program instructions comprising

6   program instructions for:

7   obtaining information from persons and / or from documents from at least one

8   terminal;

9   identifying the database(s) that contain information necessary for verifying the

10   obtained information;

11   forwarding the obtained information to one or more servers that have access to the

12   information in the identified databases;

13   comparing the information from the identified database(s) with the obtained

14   information in the server to verify the obtained information without disclosing database

15   information to anyone;

16   providing an indication whether or not the obtained information matches the

17   information from the identified database(s); and

18   returning the match indications to the terminal from which the obtained

19   information that was compared to database information was originally sent.

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